



# THE GOOD NEWS *from the Belfry*

a Monthly Newsletter of the  
First Congregational Church of Haddam and  
the Higganum Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



**SEPTEMBER**  
in the 2017<sup>th</sup> Year of our Lord  
*Homecoming*



Higganum Congregational Church  
First Congregational Church of Haddam  
*Returned mail to*  
23 Parsonage Rd.  
Higganum, CT 06441

Address Service Requested  
Church websites: [www.hccucc.org](http://www.hccucc.org) and [www.haddamconchurch.org](http://www.haddamconchurch.org)

WORSHIP SERVICE – Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (*location as noted inside*)  
Christian Education and Child Care provided during Sunday Worship Service

*Look! I'm doing a new thing;  
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?  
I'm making a way in the desert,  
paths in the wilderness.*

Isaiah  
43:19



Greetings Church ~

As I write this I am packing to go on my final week of “Summer Vacation.” I will officially share with you all that Jim and I are buying a home in Wellfleet on Cape Cod and we plan to close on the house and “move in” September 1st! This is a “new thing” in our lives together, since we have not owned a home in many years. We are excited! More importantly, I have also been gearing up and getting very excited about the “new thing” we will be doing by sharing worship every Sunday in September and going forward.

Worship during July and August was a “new thing” for me with you. I thought our experiments with 8am Summer Worship at the Higganum Gazebo and God in the Movies at 9:30 am both went well! I found both experiences refreshing and fun. I look forward to getting your feedback.

On Sunday, September 10— Rally Sunday— we will kick off a NEW shared Sunday School program with a NEW curriculum (Deep Blue)! We will also welcome families to worship together for communion Sundays, when we will not offer Sunday School.

We are trying to do “new things” to bring us all together to share worship in many ways. I feel a fresh spirit blowing through and it is full of potential to renew us all. I hope and pray in the days, weeks, months and years to come we are able to *recognize it*. Pay attention, it would be a shame to miss the “new thing” God is doing among and through us. I am thrilled to witness the blossoming from cross pollination taking place as some of our

boards and committees come together to share traditions, experiences and ideas. “New things” are *sprouting up* and it is wonderful. Each congregation is being enhanced by the coming together to share their best and learn from the other. This truly is a good thing— *a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness*.

Let me close by saying that now more than ever is the time to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you at church to see this “new thing” that God is doing with us at First Congregational Church of Haddam and Higganum Congregational Church. It is true that many people will not come to church without an invitation, while at the same time we can fear we will seem too churchy or pushy if make the offer. Maybe that will be the “new thing” you do this Fall, invite someone to join you at church who will come and have their lives changed— blessing us all in the process. There have been articles in the local papers about the “new thing” we are doing— invite them too come and see for themselves.

Abundant Blessings, *Tomi*

### Worship Schedule:

Sunday worship services will be at  
**9:30 a.m.** at the following locations:

September	First Congregational Church of Haddam
October	Higganum Congregational Church
November	First Congregational Church of Haddam
December	Higganum Congregational Church

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## WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Michael Richmond and Amy Harlow who became members of the Higganum Congregational Church during Service on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.



*If* we belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have truly belongs to Him.

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW BEGINNING

It is with pleasure that we introduce Amy Harlow as the new Shared Interim Christian Education Director/ Faith Formation Director. Our new curriculum, Deep Blue, is a one-room, all ages approach that can be modified to suit all learning styles. It includes learning through music, crafts, video and role playing, just to name a few! Each week a new bible story will be read and then related to the children's everyday life.

"My goal is to provide a safe, warm, caring and FUN environment where the children will feel comfortable exploring their faith."

*Amy Harlow*

Amy states "My goal is to provide a safe, warm, caring and FUN environment where the children will feel comfortable exploring their faith." Amy shared she is so excited to kick off this new program of faith formation on **Sunday September 10th** at our Rally Day Worship and Picnic event to be held at FCCH. Class will be held on 9/10 with the first lesson being Hannah's Hands 1 Samuel 1:1-28 - We listen to God and the power of prayer.



**SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>  
RALLY DAY  
&  
BBQ / POTLUCK  
PICNIC  
@ FCCH**

Please feel free to invite your friends. We look forward to seeing you there!



Peace and Blessings

*Submitted by Amy Harlow  
Shared Interim Christian Education Director /  
Faith Formation Director*

## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GLADYS BURR PECK MEMORIAL ORGAN CONCERT

The Music Committee of Higganum Congregational Church is pleased to announce Noah Smith, Music Director of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Suffield CT, will perform at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gladys Burr Peck Organ Concert at Higganum Congregational Church on **Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m.**

Gladys Peck would be 100 years old on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Come celebrate her life, her long standing membership and her legacy as historian of Higganum Congregational Church.

Light refreshments will be served following the concert. A freewill donation will be accepted and appreciated in support of the church's music program and this particular concert's lasting presence.

*Submitted by Sue Henehan*



*Dear Church Family,*

*I wanted to be here in person to say "Thank you". Unfortunately it is going to have to come by card since I'm not well enough to attend church.*

*Thank you for all the prayers in and outside of church, lights give to me, and the delicious meals that Dan, AJ and myself enjoyed. I'm so very happy to be part of this church family.*

*Love,  
Debbie*

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of individuals who enjoy knitting and crocheting (or trying to knit and crochet) and also enjoy the company of each other. We meet on the **first Tuesday of the month** in fellowship hall at the Higganum Congregational Church at **9:30 am**. Everyone is welcome to join us, no experience necessary, and we have materials to help you get started on a project.

We make blankets for baptisms, shawls for those who need the comfort of a warm hug to wrap around their shoulders, shawls to celebrate joys, lap robes to bring warmth to someone sitting in a chair. All of these items that we make are made with love and the hope that they bring comfort to the recipient.

We also have a group of knitters meeting at the Saybrook at Haddam on the last Monday of the month at 10:00 am. They have been knitting hats for our hat and mitten tree that will be given to children in need.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a shawl or blanket, please let us know. We'd love to share our ministry with them! ♥ ♥

*Submitted by Rebecca Williams*

## MY EXPERIENCE AT SILVER LAKE

*By Sadie Harlow*

I was a little nervous as Mamma and I turned into Silver Lake Camp. I was wondering if I would make friends. After I got settled into my cabin and after mom left, I was even more nervous! But then my cabin friends invited me to join in their game and from then on we were best friends! The first activity we did was singing. I also loved the arts and crafts activities. While we were eating breakfast, a counselor would come and read us a bible story. The bible story became our theme of the day. One of our themes was never give up. I really had to use that idea

when I tried to climb Modge Mountain, a huge blow-up on the Water-Front. I worked hard to climb to the top and then had a blast



sliding back down into the water! Every night we had worship time somewhere on the campgrounds. It was a fun activity where we took turns dancing or singing about what we would like our world to be like. I had a wonderful camping experience at Silver Lake. I am very thankful for everyone that helped me to go there.

*Thank you, Sadie Harlow*



To: All of the members of Higganum Congregational Church  
Thank you all so much for the help and support you gave our mother (Claire Time) over the years she spent as a member of the HCC Congregation. It was very obvious to our entire group of family & friends how much she was cared for. She always spoke so highly of everyone she knew from the church and sincerely enjoyed being a member of the church as well as the choir. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers.

*Our Sincerest Thanks,  
The Hastings Family*

## Worship Etiquette

by Carolyn Brown from [worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com](http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com)

I am surprised at how many of my posts about all sorts of worship issues lead to spirited conversations in the comments about behavior. What is and is not acceptable behavior for a child in the sanctuary seems to be a never ending "hot button." So, I thought I'd take a stab at addressing it directly. Since this is a first attempt I look forward to hearing people add to, refute and otherwise weigh in on the following.

**When God's people gather for worship** we include a wide variety of individuals who share a basic and deep need to be there. We all need to feel loved and wanted and accepted as one of God's children. We need to hear God's Word proclaimed and to pray and sing with others. But, we also have some very different needs.

Most children need to be a little noisier and wiggly than most adults.

The deaf 80 year old needs enough quiet to be able to hear at least a little of what is said.

The harried middle adults are seeking peace and calm and quiet.

The teenagers... well, the list goes on....

**The general rule of worship etiquette is that I can do whatever I want during worship until what I do keeps another person from being able to worship.** Its corollary is that we each must recognize and accept the needs of other worshipers. If we whisper loudly, they can't hear. If we don't stay in our seat, they can't pay attention to the preacher. If we frown at them and their children, they do not feel like God's loved children who are welcome in the sanctuary. Parents can't expect all the adults in the room to give up their need to worship to accommodate a disruptive child. Non-parent adults can't expect children to not be children in the sanctuary. It takes all of us working together to make worship worshipful for all of us.

**Within this general rule, there are specifics** that will vary from congregation to congregation but include the following (in no particular order).

The **sound of crayons, markers or pencils on paper** is acceptable.

It does not drown out the voices of the worship leaders.

**The sound of rattling toys**, electronic games, or smart phone activities is not.

Those sharper sounds are harder to hear around or through.

**Quiet whispering** is needed between parents and children, but not between children and their friends. And all whispering should be about worship.

**Kicking the pew in front of you** definitely disturbs the worship of the people sitting in that pew. One way to help younger children avoid this is to take their shoes off, especially if those shoes have hard soles. This also makes their movements in the pew quieter for those around them and less bruising for their parents.

Pacing in the back with a child who needs the movement to stay relaxed is often essential. (Some congregations provide rocking chairs and stuffed animals in a children's corner for just this purpose.) Children going on **frequent unscheduled, unescorted walks** around the front of the sanctuary is not because it distracts everyone in the room.

**There will be brief child noises of all sorts.** But brief is the key word. When a child's noise last longer than a minute or two, it is time to leave for the sake of worshipers around you AND to return when the child is ready and able to be quieter again.

**Worship etiquette will vary from congregation to congregation.** In smaller churches with few children, expectations may be a little looser. In larger congregations with hundreds of worshipers including many children, a little more quiet and less movement is needed. But in all congregations the basic goal is to make worship possible for ALL of us with our many different needs.

**The key to good worship etiquette is not knowing the rules, but paying attention to people around you** and learning how to participate more and more fully in worship. So, worshipers of all ages can learn to

Smile at their worship neighbors and call them by name when possible

Sign the friendship pad to celebrate the fact that you are here

Pass the peace to neighbors

Pass the offering plates

Know what to do during baptisms and communion

Finally, you know you've got it about right when an eight year old who has been chewing the gum given to her just before the sermon turns to her mother and whispers, "may I blow a bubble?" and her mother whispers back without rolling her eyes or frowning, "no, not in church, dear." I smiled when it happened in the pew in front of me this morning and have smiled about it repeatedly all afternoon.

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## HAPPY LABOR DAY

After what seemed to be a short summer hiatus, the Trustees will be back at it, helping out with Fundraising (Golf Outing) and getting caught up on a few exterior repair projects on the Parsonage.

Good luck to all our students heading off to college for the first time and those returning to finish their degrees! Best wishes also to those who are advancing to the next grade or school level!

***We are proud of you all!***

For now we are hoping for summer not to end and for the fall season to be a long one, before we have to think of the challenges the next season will bring.

As always we are grateful for all the support the Trustees receive from the Congregation throughout year!

All our best to you all,  
The Trustees

*Live Simply,  
Love Generously,  
Care Deeply,  
Speak Kindly,  
Leave the rest to God!*

*Submitted by Brian Thayer  
Chair, Board of Trustees for HCC*

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## HCC HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE:

The Committees responsible for hosting the fellowship hour after Sunday service for the upcoming season is as follows:

<b>September</b>	<b>Christian Service <u>and</u> Prudential</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Outreach</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Christian Education <u>and</u> Stewardship/Pastoral Relations</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Board of Trustees <u>and</u> Board of Finance</b>



To be sure there will be coffee and treats after each service, members of the assigned committees are asked to update the sign-up sheet in the normal places at each Church.

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## BUDGET REMINDER

Attention all HCC Boards & Committees!



The Board of Finance of HCC seeks your help in developing the proposed HCC budget for 2018. All Boards and Committees that seek funding for 2018 must submit a proposal to the Board of Finance so those expenses can be budgeted for the upcoming year. We truly appreciate all budgets being submitted by **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**. Budget forms will be sent to respective chairs of Boards and Committees the first week of September.

Any questions regarding this process can be directed to Bruce Kocsis at 860-345-2547 or [bruce.kocsin@snet.net](mailto:bruce.kocsin@snet.net).

*Submitted by Bruce Kocsis  
Member of the HCC Board of Finance*



Christian stewards seek the heart of God in faithfully, joyfully and gratefully managing all the gifts God has given.

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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

The FCCH Church Council will meet on **Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm in the Lewis House at FCCH.

The HCC Church Council will meet on **Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm in the HCC Fellowship Hall. **\*\*Note Change to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Month\*\***

Council meetings are open to all Church members, however only members of the Council shall have a vote.



Need more details, here you go....

## YES YOU CAN

*That is the answer to the question asked by a few and thought of by many!*

You absolutely can be a part of the Higganum Congregational Church's 7th annual Golf Outing on **Saturday September 16th, 2017** even if you don't play golf!

Dinner is an amazing, wonderful, delicious, entertaining, and value packed event. Come see for yourself. For \$25 the evening begins with an open bar and delicious appetizers. That is followed by your choice of a tender and delicious New York Strip Steak or Marinated Chicken on a stick from [Hall's Market in West Hartford](#), Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Bread/Rolls and assorted desserts and coffee. Of course, our own chef [Jack Murphy](#) always does an outstanding job preparing all the food. All of this overlooking our beautiful Connecticut River in the backyard of our hosts, [Sue and Danny Gascoyne](#). Children pay according to their age! 3-year-old-\$3 etc! Bring the family. Yard games and a tea cup raffle with over 50 prizes round out the evening.

We are still looking for sponsors for the outing. \$100 for a tee sponsor is out of many budgets.... but how about your committee or group sponsoring a tee? The prayer shawl group has lots of knitters. If each person chipped in a few dollars you could probably get your own hole! How about the music committee, or the church council? Maybe your bowling team, or your book club?

We will also need lots of appetizers and desserts to feed the 100+ people at the dinner. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

There is a signup sheet for volunteers to help on the course and at the dinner, as well as for setting up the tents, tables and chairs. Volunteering is amazingly rewarding!

IF YOU DO PLAY GOLF, even a little bit, PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN. THE NUMBER ONE RULE WE HAVE IS: HAVE FUN! No pressure and no concerns about ability. Just fun, fellowship and a few good putts!

**SATURDAY, September 16, 2017**

**8:30 REGISTRATION AND PUTTING CONTEST**

**9:30 SHOTGUN START**

BLACK BIRCH GOLF CLUB  
10 BANNER ROAD  
MOODUS, CT 06469

Entry Fee of \$125 includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes  
Family and Friends are encouraged to attend dinner for \$25 each

To Benefit Higganum Congregational Church and its Missions

## POST-GOLF EVENTS

**BEGINNING AT 3 PM**

at the Gascoyne's,  
130 Dublin Hill Road, Higganum  
Social Hour, Dinner, Awards, Raffle Prizes

If you have any questions regarding the outing, please contact Betsey at 345-8291 or [betseyandron@gmail.com](mailto:betseyandron@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Betsey Booth and Terry Smith  
HCC Fundraising Committee and Golf Committee*



One verse in every six in the first three Gospels relates, either directly or indirectly, to money. Sixteen of our Lord's 44 parables deal with the use or misuse of money. A loving, joyful, liberal giving to the Lord's work is an acid test of a spiritual heart, pleasing to God.

William E. Allen, Alliance Witness magazine

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## SUNDAY OF SERVICE

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and we will also participate in our first **Sunday of Service** activity. Everyone is encouraged to help support Crop Walk (at Chatfield Hollow) — which raises money for Hunger programs near and far. Our worship service will include blessing all those walking for Crop Walk, prayers and songs as well as celebrating communion. Walkers are invited to come to worship wearing their “walking” clothes. At the close of worship we will gather for a simple meal and head out to Crop Walk. Our serving by walking or supporting those who walk will be considered a part of our worship that day.



Another **Sunday of Service** will be planned for the spring. We hope to have several service projects that members will be able to participate in either at the church or in the community...and then we will return to church for a meal set out by members. If you have suggestions for service projects or would like to help plan this intergenerational activity please contact Tomi or Amy Harlow.



Service Sundays are an opportunity for us to put feet on our faith and to worship God by serving.

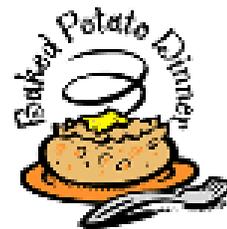
# IT'S BACK!!!!

## THE ALL YOU CAN EAT BAKED POTATO SUPPER AND GRAB BAG BOX AUCTION!

Save the date!

**Saturday, October 28**

for a spooky good  
potato supper.




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### QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

FCCH will have three quilts to be raffled this year at the Seventh Annual **Yuletide Quilt Show**.

Beginning on September 1, 2017, raffle tickets will be available at coffee hour, at the Farmers Market and from members of the Quilt Show committee.

Tickets are \$2.00. One does not have to be present at the drawing on December 2, 2017 to win. Take a book or two of tickets to sell. All the proceeds will be used for mission activities.

The Yuletide Quilt Show will be held on **December 2, 2017** at FCCH. The committee is meeting now to plan for this event. Here is an opportunity to display quilts you have made or been given. We will also be showing quilted clothing and holiday quilted items. Mark this date on your calendar. Come and see beautiful art work and have lunch in the Haddam Café.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH HELPS H-K YOUTH

### *Back to School Unmentionables!*

A big thank you goes out to all who participated in the back to school underwear program. HK Youth & Family Services gave us the gender and ages of 9 children. Each received socks, tee shirts or camis and other unmentionables. As these items are usually packaged in groups of 3 or 5, the children received wonderful donations. One child is 6 months and several individuals purchased onesies. The families greatly appreciated the generosity of our church members and friends.



### *Back to School Means Return of Backpack Program*

HES backpack time is fast approaching...our first delivery will be the week of Sept 10. As you shop for groceries for your family, keep in mind what can be purchased that will provide nutritional meals and snacks for children during the weekend. Peanut butter, juices, tuna fish, canned chicken and ham, soups, cereals, snack bars are some of the items needed. Donations may be left in the wagon in the HCC Fellowship Hall. Please do not leave food packaged in glass or large packages as the food goes into a backpack that a youngster brings home. Any questions about this program or if anyone would like to volunteer ( 2 people spend less than an hour per week filling the backpacks and delivering to HES) please contact Peg Lewis, Carol Ricker, Alexa Flora, Jeanne Calhoun or Carol Matregrano at Higganum Congregational Church.

*Submitted by Carol Matregrano  
Chair, HCC Outreach Committee*

## FCCH MISSION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

### *Bread Ministry Getting Noticed!*

The Bread Ministry will be making bread throughout September. It may have taken a little while for people at the East Haddam Farmers Market to learn about our delicious bread, but now the word is out and we have been able to sell out by the end of the market. All the proceeds of this activity will be given to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank in the fall.

THANK YOU for being a baker or a seller or a customer. When we work together, good things happen.

### *Restocking the Shelves*

THANK YOU to all who brought canned goods for the Haddam Food bank in August. The shelves were nearly empty at the beginning of August. We helped to provide emergency food supplies to Haddam families. Let us continue to collect canned goods each week.

- ✦ Week One: Tuna and mayonnaise
- ✦ Week Two: Peanut butter and jelly
- ✦ Week Three: Cereal and cooking oil
- ✦ Week Four: Pasta and sauce and canned fruit.

In the past, items collected were given to Amazing Grace in Middletown, but for now we will take it to the Haddam Food Bank. Our local need is great.

### *Crop Walk*

This year's Crop Walk will raise money to help feed hungry people around the world and here in our area, and to provide clean water. A percentage of the money we raise will go to the Haddam Food Bank. Sponsor sheets will be available in September, which includes information on how to set up an on-line donation site. Last year this type of donation was very successful.

Enjoy a beautiful walk in the Fall and help your neighbor.

*Submitted by Virginia Evensen  
FCCH Christian Service Committee*

# Cave Quest

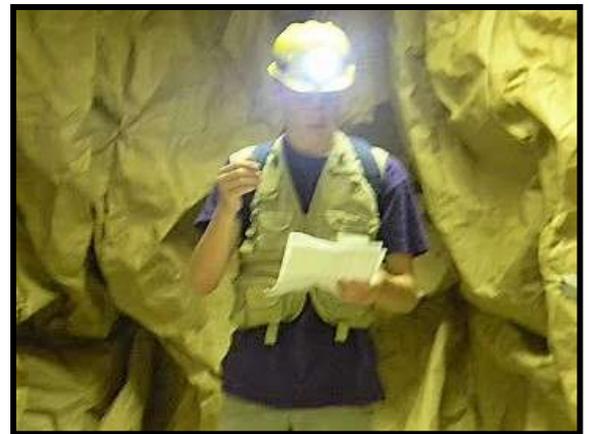
## Vacation Bible School 2017

What a great week we had at Cave Quest Vacation Bible School this year! Twenty-five children and hundreds of teen and adult volunteers participated in this fun-filled week packed with surprising adventures, science-fun gizmos, team-building games, upbeat music, tasty treats, new friends, and so much more!

Some of the highlights of the week:



**Painting bat houses:** One of the mission projects the campers did was to paint four bat houses that Mark Soneson built for VBS to help bring bats back to our community



Thomas Williams played Clark Cavern, the clumsy, but sweet, spelunker!



Breaking open geodes and finding crystals.



Our fantastic teen volunteers!



**Mission project #2**  
Making cookies for the Senior Center lunches.

## VBS Celebration Sunday

The week ended with a special Celebration Sunday service on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The service was all about VBS, with a slide show, award presentations, volunteer recognition, and the campers singing the songs they learned. A special collection was also received for Heifer International.

After the service, all were invited to a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall where there was a beautiful display of the children's art projects throughout the room.

## Penny Wars Champions

All the campers were winners of the 2017 VBS Penny Wars Mission Collection! The campers brought in almost 10,000 coins! Congratulations!

The total amount collected was over \$400! (Proceeds from Penny Wars will go to Heifer International.)



## Our 2017 VBS Campers



Check out more photos on [haddamcongregation.org](http://haddamcongregation.org).

## *Befriending the Stranger*

A BULLETIN ON CHURCH HOSPITALITY & REVITALIZATION

By Rev. Dr. Randy Hammer

### *On the Safe Side*

A certain pastor had just arrived at an ancient Coptic monastery out in the desert, nearly a day's journey from Cairo, Egypt. He was astonished at the welcome he received. The monks treated the pastor as if he were the one and only important guest they had been awaiting since the place was established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. They served a fine meal, showed him to a comfortable room and brought him a bouquet of fresh flowers. The pastor was then greeted by the abbot of the monastery, Father Jeremiah. "Wow!" exclaimed the pastor. "You sure know how to treat visitors."

Father Jeremiah replied, "We always treat guests as if they were angels, just to be on the safe side."

Such is the way that Herb Miller tells the story in his book, *How to Build a Magnetic Church*. The point Miller is trying to make, of course, is how important it is for churches to convey a friendly, hospitable atmosphere to newcomers.

The reason for the monks' hospitable nature was based, no doubt, on the verse in the Christian scriptures that says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2).

Think about it: What if all of us always went out of our way to be kind and hospitable to strangers? What if we treated everyone like we would treat an angel? How might the world be different? How might our lives be blessed? How many new friends might we make?

An angel from God need not be some sort of winged, heavenly creature to qualify as an angel, you know. Sometimes in the scriptures angels are nothing more than humans sent by God on a special mission to bless people's lives. They come bearing a message, or bringing good news.

As we look toward another new church year ahead, who knows how many newcomers will pass through the doors of our church(es)? Some of them will feel led to make our congregations their church home. Some will become close friends. Some (if not all) of them might just be "angels" sent by God to bring good news, fresh ideas, and much-needed gifts and talents. How important it is that we welcome every one as we would welcome an angel, "just to be on the safe side."



### **Meet the Farinella family from Texas.**

Kimberly, Paul and their 3 lovely daughters recently dropped by FCCH because Kimberly was searching for the Spencer pewter items in the back of the church. The family lives in Texas and learned that Kimberly is a descendant of Spencer, who wished to have his pewter items donated to a nearby church-- when FCCH did not even exist. His children later donated the items to the church.

Just a little bit of our history and our inter-connectedness!!

**Higganum Congregational Church**  
**Special Congregational Meeting**  
**June 25, 2017**

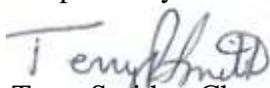
The meeting was called to order at 11:30am. The Clerk, Terry Smith, read the call to order which included the following measures to be considered.

1. Should the First Congregational Church of Haddam and the Higganum Congregational Church move to a single shared worship service.?
2. Should the shared worship begin in September 2017 or January 2018.?
3. How should the worship locations be alternated?
4. What time should the shared worship service be held?

There were 31 members present plus 7 absentee ballots submitted.

1. Should the First Congregational Church of Haddam and the Higganum Congregational Church move to a single shared worship service?
  - a. A motion was made by Sam Crum, seconded by Paul Lewis to move to a shared service.
  - b. Discussion: Concern was expressed that this is a first step in a plan to merge the two churches. Greg Shields mentioned that this was not the case. There is no plan to merge the churches; each church will retain its own identity and there will be no co-mingling of finances. The shared service will enable richer Christian Education (CE) and Music programs. The Sunday School will be held at the 'host' church.
  - c. Vote: 32 Yes; 5 No; 1 Abstention
2. Should the shared worship begin in September 2017 or January 2018.?.
  - a. A motion made by Carol Matregrano, seconded by Linda Hansen to start the shared services in September, 2017.
  - b. Discussion: This date best fits with the start of the Christian Education Sunday School year.
  - c. Vote: Unanimous in favor of starting September, 2017
3. How should the worship locations be alternated?
  - a. A motion was made by Alan Chadwick, seconded by Sam Crum to alternate shared Sunday services on a monthly basis.
  - b. Discussion: It will be very important to effectively communicate which church will be hosting the Sunday service. The joint Diaconate boards will determine any special times/locations to ensure the church holidays are appropriately shared between the churches. Also, they will consider how to change the monthly alternating schedule to accommodate different annual host months for each church.
  - c. Vote: 37 Yes; 1 No
4. What time should the shared worship service be held?
  - a. A motion was made by Paul Lewis, seconded by Sandy Nightingale to hold Sunday services at 10:00am. This was amended to 9:30am.
  - b. Discussion: It was mentioned that the Haddam church voted to hold Sunday services at 9:30am. The Joint Diaconate and the Council will review the schedules next Spring to determine if any changes may want to be made. If there are issues prior to that time, they will be addressed as raised.
  - c. Vote: 37 Yes; 1 No
5. A motion was made by Carol Matregrano, seconded by Bruce Ricker to adjourn. This was approved at 11:58am

Respectively submitted



Terry Smith; Church Clerk

## SAFE CONDUCT TRAINING WORKSHOP

**When?** Sunday, **October 22** from 11 am -1 pm

**Where?** Higganum Congregational Church

**For who?** All who volunteer with children and youth (under 18), and any Deacon, Trustee, Moderator or other church leader who has not done a Safe Conduct training in the past 2 years.

As informed and caring church leaders it is our responsibility to work together to create an environment of safety for our two congregations. This training is important as we move forward sharing worship, nursery care and Sunday School. Also trainings such as this one are a routine expectation by those providing insurance coverage for each church.

With conversations, case studies and more, this training will cover the basics and beyond to increase awareness and provide strategies to church leaders in all roles on this vital aspect of our life together as communities of faith.

Our trainer for this event will be **Karen Ziel**, *Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation and Leadership for the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

There will be a sign up sheet at FCCH and HCC.

If you will require nursery care to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements. If you have had a similar training through your work, please provide us with evidence of such training. If you have any questions please contact Tomi or Amy [amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com](mailto:amyharlow.ucc@gmail.com).

## Kids Page



### AFTER-SCHOOL SNACK

Enjoy this healthy apple snack after a busy day of learning.

#### What you need:

- Apple
- Apple corer (optional)
- Peanut butter (or other spread)
- Pecan pieces
- Shredded coconut
- Chocolate chips

#### What you do:

1. If you have an apple corer, remove the core. Then slice apple into thin rings. (If you don't have a corer, slice into rings first and then remove the core.)
2. Spread peanut butter across one side of each ring.
3. Sprinkle with pecans, coconut and chocolate chips.
4. Enjoy with a glass of milk!

**Bible Quiz**

In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

A. Sychar  
B. Samaria  
C. Galilee  
D. Jacob's well

Answer: A, B and D (See John 4:4-7ff.)

## Homecoming!

### Content Author:

Reagan, David

### Scripture Passage:

Hebrews 12:23

*The theme of this month's newsletter is "Homecoming." I felt the following sermon found online was fitting. I hope you enjoy it!*

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect" -*Hebrews 12:23*

*Do* you remember the old-fashioned church homecoming? Special singing. Dinner on the grounds—and what a dinner is always was! Seeing families who had moved away. What a good time we used to have at homecoming.

*I*m looking forward to another homecoming. One day soon, or sooner, I'm going up to heaven. It matters not whether I go through the door of death or take the ride called the rapture. It only matters that when I arrive on the other side I am forever with my Saviour.

*What* are you excited about seeing? Certainly, seeing Jesus has to be first on the list. But what is next on your list? Are you looking for the streets of gold or going to listen to the angel choir? To me, *Hebrews 12:23* reveals the second best thing about heaven: the people who will be waiting for us to show up.

*My* grandparents are there. The baby sister I never knew is there. My father in the ministry is there. All the Bible saints are there. With each passing year, I know a few more of that heavenly throng.

*I* don't think going to heaven will be like entering a new and strange place. No, I expect it to be more like homecoming. Heaven will fit like an old pair of worn-out shoes. Dinner, or perhaps I should say supper, will be on the table. Loved ones will be waiting to meet and greet us. You know, I sure am looking forward to homecoming. "Hey, you guys, save me some mashed potatoes!"

*David Reagan*



Dear FCCH and HCC friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful retirement gifts you presented me during the VBS Celebration Sunday service! Hard to believe it has been thirteen years since Rev. Ann Crites convinced me to apply to the FCCH CE Director position! So many wonderful children have come through the Sunday school program since that time - I am so grateful to have been a part of their lives.

Fondly,  
Nancy

Thank You!  
THANK YOU!

## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes for many more

Happy Birthday to:

- 7 Washington Malave
- 9 Jennifer Thayer
- 15 Olivia Harry
- 16 Eliza Williams
- 20 Kenneth Roberts
- 21 Bruce Kocsis
- 24 Jordan Tupay
- 26 Brian Thayer
- 29 Catherine Morrill



Danny Hollenbeck



## SEPTEMBER

- 4 Alan and Linda Hansen
- 7 Ken and Catherine Wendt
- 16 Paul and Sandy Nightingale
- 17 Dick and Edie Williams
- 24 Bruce and Carol Ricker
- 29 Jonathan and Rebecca Williams

## From the Desk of the Editor



From the Editor

Here in God's Country, the crisp hint of cooler temps in the air after sunset signals the passing of another summer. I hope you made some wonderful memories with your loved ones this summer.

We lost another beautiful soul in August when Claire Tine passed away. She was a wonderful, spunky woman that always brought a smile and quick laugh. I miss you dearly, my friend. Happy Anniversary to you in Joe; May you dance like no one is watching.

The overwhelming sentiment among the members of our Congregations is that we all like having a single newsletter and so I have volunteered to continue to be the editor of the joint newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed this Homecoming edition.

As you have likely noticed this newsletter has a different title - *The Good News from the Belfry*. This clever melding of titles came from Rev. Tomi. I quite like it. It signals our continued commitment to spreading news of our good works while showing an ongoing endeavor to support our two Congregations. I'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions for the newsletter and it's new title or a different one.

Peace and love,  
Sue

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Please send your announcements to be included in the next edition of the newsletter to  
[HCCBelfryEditor@gmail.com](mailto:HCCBelfryEditor@gmail.com)  
by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.